

OHIO SENATE ENERGY COMMITTEE
INTERESTED PARTY SUB. H. B. NO. 15
APRIL 7, 2025

Chair Chavez, Vice Chair Landis, Ranking Member Smith and members of the committee. My name is Mimi Plevin-Foust, testifying as the Legislative Committee Chair of Faith Communities Together for a Sustainable Future (FaCT). Thank you for the opportunity to submit additional testimony about SUB HB15 today.

As this committee considers how to adjust this ambitious bill moving forward, please consider the following recommendations:

Legacy Generation Resource Fund OVEC Bailouts

FaCT strongly supports the current version of SUB HB15 which ends these bailouts immediately upon passing this law, not tying them to sunseting electric security plans. Please keep this immediate repeal in the final bill.

Repurpose Solar Generation Fund for Schools

Rather than returning the \$54 million Solar Generation Fund to consumers as written in SUB HB15, please use these funds for SB2's School Energy Performance Contracting Loan Fund, which will provide much-needed low-interest loans for school districts to install energy efficiency and solar panels in schools and continually regenerate funding for new projects as loans are repaid.

Community Energy Pilot Program

FaCT strongly supports SUB HB15's inclusion of this program which revives HB197 and would allow building small generation facilities that people could subscribe to for their electricity use. Please keep this consumer-friendly program in the final bill.

Siting and Approval Time Frames

Please keep or lengthen SUB HB15's 90-day accelerated review process at the Ohio Power Siting Board for applications to build electric generation plants in priority investment areas or on applicant-owned property. Please keep or lengthen the 180-day limit on other applications rather than the 120 days proposed in SB2. PUCO has told House Energy Committee members that they couldn't possibly complete a proper review within the shorter time frames currently proposed in SB2.

Setbacks

FaCT urges SUB HB15 to restore the original 750-foot setback for wind turbines to make our state competitive with our neighbors. Wind energy is the cheapest form of energy available. Coupled with storage, it is very reliable. Wind projects provide millions in tax dollars to the counties where they are located.

Thank you for your strongest consideration of these recommendations which will help Ohio take its place within the new energy economy. Please contact us to answer any questions you may have.